

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TO CINCPAC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T WELLINGTON 0506

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR US AS NZ
SUBJECT: CINCPAC TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER ROWLING AND LEADER
OPPOSITION MULDOON

FOR ADMIRAL GAYLER FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

REF A) STATE 41398; B) STATE 41397

1. IN YOUR UPCOMING TALKS WITH THESE GENTLEMEN, ONE OF
WHOM NOW LEADS NEW ZEALAND AND ONE OR THE OTHER OF WHOM
AFTER NOVEMBER 1975 WILL LEAD IT FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS,
WE FEEL IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT BOTH ARE GIVEN THE SAME OR
SIMILAR BRIEFINGS. THIS SHOULD INSURE THAT NEITHER CAN
CLAIM TO HAVE HAD SOME US ASSURANCE WHICH THE OTHER DID
NOT RECEIVE. I SEE THIS AS A GOLDEN CHANCE TO HOLD SCHOOL
CALL ON ISSUES OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO US/NZ RELATIONS.
REGARDLESS OF WHICH MAN WINS IN NOVEMBER, THE OTHER WILL
REMAIN VERY POWERFUL IN THE NEW ZEALAND POLITICAL SCENE.

2. THERE ARE THREE GENERAL AREAS WHICH I WOULD SUGGEST TO
YOU AS BEING OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AND WHICH THEREFORE
I FEEL PERHPAS SHOULD ENJOY PARTICULAR EMPHASIS. THESE
ARE: A) THE FUTURE OF THE TTPI AND THE IMPACT OF THE
MARIANAS MOVE TO SEEK US PROTECTORATE STATUS; B) THE
OVERALL PACIFIC DEFENSE PICTURE WITH PARTICULAR
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EMPHASIS ON HOW THE US VIEWS NZ PARTICIPATION; AND C)

THE MATTER OF NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO NZ PORTS.

3. WHEN RADM GEO. MORRISON VISITED WELLINGTON RECENTLY HIS REMARKS AND FORECASTS ON TTPI MATTERS WERE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO BOTH DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICERS WITH WHOM HE TALKED. I FEEL THAT YOUR TWO VISITORS

WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING AN UPDATE AND THAT THIS WILL GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS NEED FOR NZ ALIGNMENT IN THE UN WHEN THE TTPI ISSUE IS DEBATED BY THAT BODY.

4. NEW ZELAND'S PLACE IN US DEFENSE PLANS FOR THE PACIFIC, BOTH AS A CONTRIBUTOR AND AS A RECIPIENT, IS ALWAYS A TIMELY TOPIC. IT IS PARTICULARLY SO DURING AN ELECTION YEAR. FOR THIS REASON I FEEL BOTH OF YOUR VISITORS SHOULD HAVE THE VERY LATEST WORD FROM YOUR HEADQUARTERS ON JUST HOW MUCH THE US VALUES NZ PARTNERSHIP, JUST WHAT WE EXPECT THAT PARTNERSHIP WILL INCLUDE, AND JUST WHAT NZ STANDS TO GAIN FROM THE ARRANGEMENT. IN THE LATTER REGARD, THE SHARING OF THE COSTLY US NUCLEAR UMBRELLA AT SMALL COST TO NZ SHOULD PERHAPS BE EMPHASIZED. THE ASSISTANCE WE SEEK FROM NZ IN THE SINGAPORE NAVAL FUEL/FACILITIES MATTER MAY ALSO PROVE A RELATED AND TIMELY TOPIC. PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH ROWLING AND MULDOON WILL HAVE BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY FOR AT LEAST A MONTH AND MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY UP TO DATE ON SINGAPORE DEVELOPMENTS.

5. AS SHOWN IN REFS A AND B, WASHINGTON AND INDEED ALL OF US ARE ANXIOUS TO RE-OPEN THE DOORS TO NPW VISITS. THE PASSAGE OF THE LIABILITY LEGISLATION, THE RECENT VISIT OF AND BRIEFINGS GIVEN TO SECDEF JOHN ROBERTSON AND RADM THORNE IN WASHINGTON AND THE RENEWED THRUST TO APPROACH GNZ ON THIS TOUCH ISSUE, ALL POINT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF INSURING THAT ALL NZ DECISION MAKERS (AND INDEED ALL WHO MAY INFLUENCE DECISIONS) BE GIVEN THE MOST BALANCED, REASONABLE AND OBJECTIVE PITCH. ROWLING, WHILE NOT THE ANTI-MILITARY TYPE OF NORMAN KIRK, IS NONETHELESS SOMEWHAT A PACIFIST ALBEIT A THINKING PACIFIST. MULDOON HAS ALREADY GIVEN HIS ASSURANCE (PROTECT PLEASE) THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY FAVOR NPW VISITS AND WOULD SEEK

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THE APPROVAL OF HIS MINISTERS FOR THIS. DESPITE THIS ASSURANCE, I FEEL IT VITAL THAT HE BE GIVEN THE WHOLE PICTURE, THAT IT COME FROM THE TOP, AND THAT IT BE THE SAME PICTURE GIVEN TO ROWLING.

6. I OFFER THE ABOVE AS MY PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON HOW WE CAN GET THE MOST MILEAGE FROM THESE VISITS. BY BRIEFING BOTH AT YOUR LEVEL, WE WILL SHOW OUR CONCERN FOR NZ AS A

PACIFIC PARTNER AND INSURE THAT NEITHER WILL HAVE ANY
EXCUSE FOR NOT KNOWING THE OFFICIAL US POSITION ON
DEFENSE MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO NZZ. WARM PERSONAL
REGARDS.
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